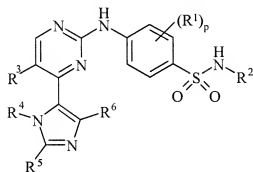


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R¹ is halo, cyano, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxy;

p is 0-2; wherein the values of **R¹** may be the same or different;

R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkylC₁₋₃alkyl, a heterocyclyl or heterocyclylC₁₋₃alkyl; wherein **R²** may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy or cyclopropylmethoxy; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more methyl, ethyl, acetyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl or methoxyethyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halo or cyano;

R⁴ is C₂₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆alkoxyC₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁵ is C₁₋₆alkyl or C₂₋₆alkenyl; wherein **R⁵** may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy or cyclopropylmethoxy;

R⁶ is C₁₋₄alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein p is 0; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R² is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R² may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more methoxy or ethoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R³ is hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is C₂₋₄alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₆alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R⁶ is methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein:
p is 0;

R² is hydrogen, 2-methoxyethyl, methyl, 3-methoxypropyl or 2-ethoxyethyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is ethyl or isopropyl;

R⁵ is methyl or ethyl;

R⁶ is methyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in-vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 selected from:

4-(1,2-diethyl-4-methylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(2-methoxyethyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-ethyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(2-ethoxyethyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-ethyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(3-methoxypropyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-ethyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(2-methoxyethyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-ethyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(methyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-ethyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-(4-sulphamoylanilino)pyrimidine;

4-(1-isopropyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(2-methoxyethyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-isopropyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(3-methoxypropyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

4-(1-isopropyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-(4-sulphamoylanilino)pyrimidine;

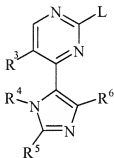
4-(1-isopropyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(2-ethoxyethyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine; or

4-(1-isopropyl-2,4-dimethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-{4-[N-(methyl)sulphamoyl]anilino} pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or an *in-vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.~~

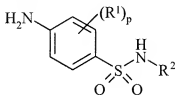
Claim 10 (currently amended): A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in-vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof as claimed in according to claim 1, which process (wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and p are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in claim 1) comprises of:

Process a) reaction of a pyrimidine of formula (II):



(II)

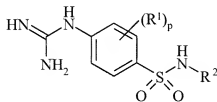
wherein L is a displaceable group; with an aniline of formula (III):



(III)

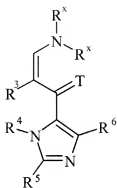
or

Process b) reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

with a compound of formula (V):

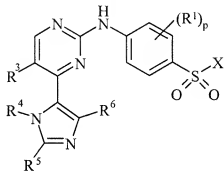


(V)

wherein T is O or S; R^x may be the same or different and is C₁₋₆alkyl;

or

Process c) reacting a pyrimidine of formula (VI):



(VI)

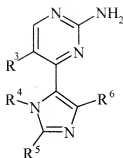
wherein X is a displaceable group; with an amine of formula (VII):



(VII)

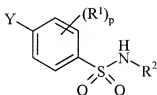
or

Process d) reacting a pyrimidine of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

with a compound of formula (IX):



(IX)

where Y is a displaceable group;

and thereafter, optionally:

- i) converting a compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I);
- ii) removing any protecting groups;
- iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof, according to claim 1, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 12-23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of treating ~~canine~~ rheumatoid arthritis in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or ester thereof~~

~~in vivo hydrolysable ester thereof as claimed in~~ according to claim 1.

Claim 25 (cancelled)